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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

New Releases-

Release No. 0932.93
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FUTURE PROGRAM FOR MEAT AND POULTRY TO BE DISCUSSED NOV. 9-10

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service will hold a conference on the "Regulatory Meat and Poultry Program of the Future" on Nov. 9 and 10 at the Renaissance Hotel, (located near Dulles International Airport), 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon, Virginia.

"The conference is an important step in planning and designing a science-based regulatory program to protect the American public," said H. Russell Cross, FSIS Administrator. "The regulatory program of the future will be developed not solely by FSIS, but by everyone who is interested in improving the safety and wholesomeness of meat and poultry."

Fifty FSIS constituents, including consumer groups, the meat and poultry industry, academia, and professional organizations, have been invited to discuss issues of general interest to the public and their particular group.

"These participants, along with many others who have commented on our proposed Strategic Plan, have a unique opportunity to make lasting contributions to food safety," said Cross.

FSIS held public hearings in six cities during the past summer and received valuable input from 180 commenters to help shape the future program. In addition, more than 100 people submitted written comments in response to the Federal Register notice on the proposed Strategic Plan and Pathogen Reduction Program.

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy has said that the outdated 1907 inspection law cannot provide the public health protection needed today or in the future. He has directed FSIS to accelerate the proposed Strategic Plan and Pathogen Reduction Program to move the agency to a science-based program.

The conference proceedings will be open to the public. However, seating at the conference will be limited. Anyone wishing to attend as an observer must make reservation by contacting Jen Darling (703) 218-2688.



Release No. 0933.93
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AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES CONFIRMED IN THIRD STATE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9 -- The presence of Africanized honey bees (AHB) in southwestern New Mexico was confirmed today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. New Mexico becomes the third state in which AHBs have been found in the United States.

The AHB swarm was found on a farm near Cotton City, 25 miles south of Lordsburg, on Sunday, Oct. 31. When a preliminary examination by Charlie Siepel, New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service director in Hidalgo County, determined the swarm was likely to be Africanized, the bees were destroyed and samples were taken for laboratory analysis.

USDA officials are working with New Mexico officials to monitor the spread of AHBs into the state and to minimize their impact on agriculture and people.

USDA Agricultural Research Service made the official identification at its Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Md.

ARS has on-going scientific investigations dealing with ways to manage AHBs at four laboratories which are located in Texas, Arizona and Louisiana, as well as Maryland.

The New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service is working closely with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and other agencies to educate the state's residents on learning to live with AHBs, according to L. Michael English, extension entomologist at New Mexico State University. The educational campaign is being directed at all age groups, starting with school children. Primary education targets also include highway department workers, pest control operators and others likely to come in contact with bees.

AHBs are the descendants of honey bees imported from Africa to Brazil in 1956. They have been spreading north and south from Brazil since their release to the wild in 1957.

In October 1990, the spreading AHB swarms were found for the first time in the United States near Hidalgo, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley. AHB swarms have also been artificially introduced into the United States in the past by way of ships arriving from South and Central America. Such swarms are found and eliminated by inspectors with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"The AHB is not the marauding villain that Hollywood and folklore have painted it to be. But these bees are more defensive and are more likely to sting in greater numbers and with less provocation if they are disturbed," said Ralph Bram, ARS National Program Leader for medical entomology.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For more information on USDA AHB programs contact Kim Kaplan, ARS Information Staff, Room 448, 6303 Ivy Lane, Greenbelt, MD 20770; telephone, (301) 344-2446. For more information on New Mexico AHB programs contact Michael English, New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service; (505) 646-2546.

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Release No. 0935.93

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USDA AMENDS FOREIGN QUARANTINE REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced it is amending foreign quarantine regulations by adding restrictions on the importation of Monterey pine logs from Chile and Monterey pine logs and Douglas fir logs from New Zealand.

"We have amended the foreign quarantine regulations because of an increased interest in importing large volumes of logs into the United States, and restrictions are necessary to control plant-pest risks associated with importing these logs," said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

As a condition of entry, logs covered by the regulations must be debarked and fumigated with methyl bromide before arrival in the United States. After arrival, the logs must be sent to U.S. facilities that will subject the lumber derived from the logs to heat treatment. This requirement alleviates the potential for introduction of pathogenic fungi that could harm domestic wood production.

"A slightly limited domestic harvest combined with high consumer demand has resulted in an increased demand for foreign wood imports," said Lee. "Wood imports from foreign sources have the potential to introduce and spread exotic plant pests and diseases throughout the United States."

Exotic pests that could hitch a ride with the logs if no treatments were required include pine-bark beetles and anobiids, wood-boring beetles, termites, spiny pine caterpillars, bagworms, white grubs, and the European pine-shoot moth. Diseases that could enter with logs include diplodia shoot blight, needle diseases, stain fungi, and root/stem rots.

"The United States is the world's leading importer of wood and wood products," said Lee. "In 1990, for instance, the United States imported the equivalent of 34.4 million cubic meters of logs, lumber and other wood products valued at about \$5.1 billion. In the past, most wood imports have come from Canada."

These amendments to the foreign quarantine regulations are published in the Nov. 9 Federal Register. APHIS will consider comments that are received within 60 days of publication of these rule changes.

To comment, send an original and three copies referring to docket number 91-074-5 on or before Jan. 10, 1994 to: Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments already received may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.



Release No. 0936.93
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USDA TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING NOV. 16 & 17 ON CONSERVATION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has invited more than 350 organizations and individuals to participate in a Nov. 16-17 public forum in Washington, D.C., on "Shaping the Third RCA Appraisal and National Conservation Program for 1998-2007."

"We want the public involved in developing and strengthening the appraisal and USDA's national conservation program," said James R. Lyons, assistant secretary for natural resources and environment.

This appraisal, in USDA's Jefferson Auditorium, will assess the status, conditions and trends of the nation's natural resources on non-federal lands.

Highlights include discussions on the environmental role of USDA, environmental goals of the President and the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (RCA). In addition, USDA specialists will discuss how RCA will address water, land, air, and socio-economic issues.

Speakers include Keith Laughlin, White House Office of Environmental Policy; Galen Bridge, acting chief of the Soil Conservation Service; Allen Richards, National Farmers Union; Ken Cook, Environmental Working Group; and Ford West, The Fertilizer Institute.

The appraisal and national conservation program are required every 10 years by the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act.

The act directs USDA to conduct an appraisal of the nation's nonfederal lands and to use the appraisal information to develop a national conservation program that will set direction for future conservation efforts by USDA. Both the appraisal and the national conservation program are to be completed in 1997.

RCA is a major effort at USDA. Under the leadership of the Soil Conservation Service, RCA involves 19 federal agencies in addition to university researchers and private organizations. The public will be involved throughout the process with special meetings.

"The appraisal will help us come to a better understanding of the tradeoffs of new issues and changes for agriculture as we weigh short- and long-term considerations," Lyons said. The theme for the third appraisal is "Challenges for Resource Management in a Changing Environment."

Previous appraisals set USDA's present soil and water conservation priorities, which focus on erosion control and water quality.



Program Announcements-

Release No. 0934.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9--Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Dallas Smith today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

--long grain whole kernels:	10.43 cents per pound
--medium grain whole kernels:	9.71 cents per pound
--short grain whole kernels:	9.64 cents per pound
--broken kernels:	5.22 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate	Marketing Certificate Rate
\$/Cwt.....	
--for long grain:	\$0.20	\$0.00
--for medium grain:	\$0.04	\$0.00
--for short grain:	\$0.08	\$0.00

These announced prices and rates are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Nov. 16 at 3 p.m. EST.



Release No. 0939.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12--Grant Buntrock, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price or AWP), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (leaf grade 4, micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 8:00 a.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. today, through midnight Thursday, Nov. 18.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 78 percent of the 1993 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 1.61 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	40.66 cents per pound
	1993 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	78
II.	USNE Price	55.90 cents per pound
	NE Price	- 54.29 cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	1.61 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	54.29
Adjustments:	
Avg. U.S. spot market location	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.50
Avg. U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	- 13.63
Calculated AWP	40.66
Further AWP adjustment	- 0
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	40.66 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	54.29
NE Coarse Count Price	- 50.68
	3.61
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	- 3.20
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0.41 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below 52.35 cents per pound, the base quality loan rate for both the 1992 and 1993 marketing years, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1993-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments (LDPs) will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1993 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain an LDP on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 0.36 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30, 1994. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Price	NE Price cents/lb	User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate
1	Oct. 21, 1993	56.60	54.51	0.84
2	Oct. 28, 1993	56.45	54.39	0.81
3	Nov. 4, 1993	56.15	54.40	0.50
4	Nov. 11, 1993	55.90	54.29	0.36

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rate will be announced on Thursday, November 18, at 5 p.m.



